

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 27-42 and 46-61 are presently active in this case. The present Amendment amends Claims 27-29, 32-33 and 60-61.

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 27-30, 32, 40-42, and 46-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mangat et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0039923) in view of Pierrat (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0081896). Claims 33-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mangat et al. and Pierrat in view of Fisch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,777,137). Claim 51 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mangat et al. and Pierrat in view of Liang et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0109278). Claims 51-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mangat et al. and Pierrat in view of Stewart et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0151991).

Claims 53-61 were allowed and Claims 31, and 35-39 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

In response, Claims 60 and 61 are rewritten in independent form.

In response to the prior art rejection, Claim 27 is amended such that step a) requires depositing the second thin layer *covering* the first thin layer; and step b) requires engraving or lithography of the second thin layer, as a function of desired *corrections*.

Neither Mangat et al. nor Pierrat discloses the possibility of making several corrections at the same time. On the contrary, Mangat et al. discloses a correction done with a localized deposition of a single metal block (70). With such a localized deposition, it is not possible to proceed to several corrections at the same time.

Pierrat does not disclose a step of etching a second sub-layer situated under a first sub-layer comprising several defects. The Pierrat reference fails to suggest making several corrections at the same time in a layer.

Thus, even considering the combination of the Mangat et al. and Pierrat references, the combination does not disclose, nor does it render obvious, the correction method as defined in independent Claim 27.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 27-42 and 46-61 is earnestly solicited.

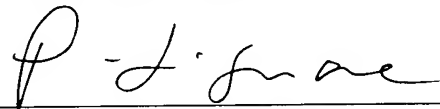
Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

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Respectfully submitted,

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